

Message Text

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43

ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 CIAE-00

DODE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01

PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 AID-05 PC-01 /056 W

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O 271313Z JUN 75

FM AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 9515

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE NEW DELHI 8555

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, US, IN

SUBJECT: PRESS LINE ON STATE OF EMERGENCY IN INDIA

REF: STATE 151654

1. THE EMBASSY FULLY CONCURS WITH THE PRINCIPAL THAT IT SHOULD NOT BE A RECORD SOURCE ON PUBLISHED COMMENT AND SHOULD AVOID EVEN BACKGROUND COMMENT AND SPECULATION ON THE EMERGENCY SITUATION. DEPARTMENT MUST REALIZE HOWEVER THAT THERE IS A FLOW OF NON-RESIDENT CORRESPONDENTS ARRIVING IN DELHI AND IT WILL BE DIFFICULT TO AVOID COURTESY OFF-THE-RECORD BACKGROUNDEERS ON THE FACTS GENERALLY AVAILABLE TO THE RESIDENT PRESS.

2. THOUGH THE SUGGESTED "NO COMMENT" PRESS LINE IS A GOOD STANCE FOR ACTUAL QUERIES, EMBASSY FEELS ADDITIONALLY THAT AS SITUATION DEVELOPS THE PROHIBITION ON OFF-THE-RECORD DISCUSSIONS WITH ABSOLUTELY NO ATTRIBUTION OR INDICATION OF AMERICAN SOURCES (SEE SEPTTEL) BY SENIOR OFFICIALS WOULD PROVE DIFFICULT.

3. NORMALLY PRODUCTIVE SOURCES IN THE INDIAN MEDIA HAVE DRIED UP WITH THE IMPOSITION OF THE STATE OF EMERGENCY AND JOURNALISTS HAVE ALREADY INDICATED THEIR UNWILLINGNESS IN THE IMMEDIATE FUTURE TO ENGAGE IN FOREIGN EMBASSY CONTACTS UNDER CURRENT CONDITIONS.

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4. THE EMBASSY MAY HAVE TO RELY MORE HEAVILY ON US NEWSMEN AS
SOURCES. SUCH CONTACTS REQUIRE SOME TWO-WAY FLOW OF INFORMATION
ON NON-ATTRIBUTAL BASIS.
SAXBE

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